

## Field Museum of Natural History

Founded by Marshall Field, 1893

Roosevelt Road and Lake Michigan, Chicago

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### FIELD MUSEUM NEWS

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Field Museum is open every day of the year during the hours indicated below:

November, December, January	9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
February, March, April, October	9 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
May, June, July, August, September	9 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Admission is free to Members on all days. Other adults are admitted free on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays; non-members pay 25 cents on other days. Children are admitted free on all days. Students and faculty members of educational institutions are admitted free any day upon presentation of credentials.

The Library of the Museum, containing some 92,000 volumes on natural history subjects, is open for reference daily except Sunday.

Traveling exhibits are circulated in the schools of Chicago by the Museum's Department of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension.

Lectures for school classrooms and assemblies, and special entertainments and lecture tours for children at the Museum, are provided by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures.

Announcements of courses of free illustrated lectures on science and travel for the public, and special lectures for Members of the Museum, will appear in FIELD MUSEUM NEWS.

There is a cafeteria in the Museum where luncheon is served for visitors. Other rooms are provided for those bringing their lunches.

Members are requested to inform the Museum promptly of changes of address.

### 2,240,000 REACHED IN 1931 BY MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

Final statistics on the activities of Field Museum in 1931 indicate that more than 2,240,000 persons benefited directly from the work of the institution during the year. This figure includes the number of visitors to the Museum—1,515,540, a total which exceeds by far any previous year's record in the history of the institution—and also more than 727,000 children reached by extramural activities of the Museum.

The year was the fifth in which the attendance exceeded one million. The increase over the 1930 total of 1,332,799 visitors is 182,741 or approximately 13.5 per cent, and compares with a gain of 164,369 made in 1930 over 1929.

While the total attendance increased so notably, all the gain was in free admissions, the paid admissions decreasing from 160,924 in 1930 to 126,209 in 1931, a development which undoubtedly may be largely attributed to the economic conditions which have prevailed during the past year. The attend-

ance on free days plus the free admissions on pay days granted to Members, children, teachers, students, etc., amounted to 1,389,331, or considerably more than the total of free and paid admissions together in 1930. It is estimated that more than one-third of the total number of visitors were children.

The additional 727,000 children coming under the influence of the Museum's educational work are accounted for as follows: The James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation, in addition to providing programs at the Museum itself for thousands of children, reached 227,351 school pupils through lecturers sent out to address them in their classrooms and assembly halls. (The total number reached by all Raymond Foundation activities, including both those inside and outside the Museum was 303,693.) In addition, approximately 500,000 children were reached over and over again during the year by means of traveling exhibition cases displayed in all the public and many other schools (with changes of subjects every two weeks) through the Department of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension.

Less directly the Museum reached probably millions of other persons by such various means as the circulation of its publications, reports in the newspapers, radio broadcasting, motion picture newsreels, etc.

The highest attendance for any single day during 1931 was on May 21, when 51,917 visitors were received in the building. This was exceeded on only two previous days in the Museum's history—June 20, 1926, with 54,024 visitors, and May 24, 1929, with 59,843 visitors.

It is interesting to note that the total attendance for the first ten years of occupancy of the present building (May 2, 1921, to May 1, 1931) was 8,597,409, as compared with a total of 5,839,579 for the more than twenty-five years during which the Museum was located in its first building in Jackson Park.

### TWO NEW TRUSTEES CHOSEN; ALL OFFICERS RE-ELECTED

At the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Field Museum, held January 18, John P. Wilson and Sewell L. Avery were elected as Trustees to fill the vacancies left on the board by the death of R. T. Crane, Jr., and the resignation of William Wrigley, Jr.

For the twenty-fourth time Stanley Field was re-elected President of the Museum. Mr. Field has held this office since January, 1909. All the other officers who served during 1931 were re-elected for 1932.

### PRIMITIVE AMPHIBIA

By B. E. DAHLGREN  
Acting Curator, Department of Botany

In connection with the preparation of the recently completed Carboniferous swamp forest group (see FIELD MUSEUM NEWS, October, 1931), restorations were made of two of the four-footed animals that appeared for the first time in the Carboniferous age.

A well-known impression in Devonian shale has been interpreted as a footprint and may indicate the existence of terrestrial vertebrates in the preceding period, but the earliest positive remains are of Lower Carboniferous age. The remains are not abundant, but they have been found in various places in Europe as well as in North America. A coal mine in Ohio has yielded more than fifty different species.

The greater part of these consists of fragments, a lesser part of more or less incom-

plete skeletons. Usually these are so greatly flattened that they appear only as impressions or silhouettes on the surface of the rough slabs of cannel coal in which they are found. Many of these fossils are of small salamander-like animals; others are considerably larger and include elongated and eel-like forms. Few of the remains indicate animals exceeding a yard in length, but one of the long-tailed species may have reached a length of nine feet.

Fortunately some of these fossils are sufficiently complete to give a good idea of the skeletal structure, and a reconstruction of the skeleton of one of them was recently made in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, under the direction of Dr. William K. Gregory. It is based mainly on the remains of *Diplovertebron*, a species discovered in Scotland, and studied and described originally by the eminent British paleontologist, S. M. Watson. In some particulars this reconstruction is a composite, since, in so far as *Diplovertebron* remains are incomplete, comparison of other forms has served to supply information lacking. Nevertheless, Dr. Gregory's model is undoubtedly the most satisfactory and important reconstruction in existence, and perhaps the only three-dimensional one, of a skeleton of a primitive Carboniferous tetrapod. The Museum was fortunate in acquiring a duplicate of it at the very time when the question was being considered of representing some example of the early tetrapods to indicate their presence in the Carboniferous forest.

On the basis of Dr. Gregory's model of the skeleton it has been possible to restore with considerable confidence the external body form of *Diplovertebron*.

The other amphibian included in the group is a small long-tailed species of Huxley's genus *Ceraterpeton*. The Museum is indebted to Professor A. S. Romer, vertebrate paleontologist of the University of Chicago, for the necessary data and for a drawing of the skeleton of this species as restored by him.

Separate models of both forms have been placed also with the fossils of the Carboniferous period in Graham Hall, to show the probable appearance of some of the earliest terrestrial vertebrates. The group to which these extinct amphibians belong is of importance not only as including the predecessors and ancestors of the very different present-day amphibians, but especially as forming the connecting link between the fishes of the preceding period and the reptiles of the next. To the distinction of being the first back-boned animals to move on four legs and thus of being the pioneers of vertebrate life on land they add that of being the progenitors of the early reptiles and through them of the higher vertebrates.

### BEQUESTS AND ENDOWMENTS

Bequests to Field Museum of Natural History may be made in securities, money, books or collections. They may, if desired, take the form of a memorial to a person or cause, named by the giver. For those desiring to make bequests, the following form is suggested:

#### FORM OF BEQUEST

I do hereby give and bequeath to Field Museum of Natural History of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois,

Cash contributions made within the taxable year to Field Museum not exceeding 15 per cent of the taxpayer's net income are allowable as deductions in computing net income under Article 251 of Regulation 69 relating to the income tax under the Revenue Act of 1926.

Endowments may be made to the Museum with the provision that an annuity be paid to the patron for life. These annuities are tax-free and are guaranteed against fluctuation in amount.





Dahlgren, B. E. 1932. "Primitive Amphibia." *Field Museum news* 3(2), 2-2.

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